



THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE
Library Assistants' Association.

Edited by

H. TAPLEY SOPER,

Public Library, Stoke Newington, N.

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NOVEMBER, 1901.

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THE LIBRARY ASSISTANTS' ASSOCIATION.

FOUNDED 1895. SEVENTH SESSION. YEAR 1901-1902.

Members are requested to read carefully the announcements appearing on this and the following pages, as no further intimation of meetings and other arrangements may be expected.

MEETINGS FOR NOVEMBER.

On Wednesday, November 6th, a Special Meeting will be held at St. Bride's Institute, Bride Lane, E.C., at 8 p.m., to consider the following suggested alterations in the Rules of the Association, proposed by Mr. A. J. Philip (*Hampstead*). Members are requested to give previous consideration to these suggestions in order to facilitate the business of the evening.

- I.—That no junior assistant shall be eligible for full membership and the power to vote at any meeting, until he has a record of at least one year's service, in either a public or private library.
- II.—That the Study Circle shall be re-organized or discontinued.
- III.—That no measure effecting the status of the Association shall be deemed finally "passed" until it has been announced to, and sanctioned by, an ordinary meeting, and published in the issue of the official Journal of the L.A.A. immediately preceding the announcement.
- IV.—That the Annual General Meeting of the Association be fixed to take place some time during the winter session.

On Wednesday, November 13th, the ordinary meeting will be held at the Central Library, Town Hall, Croydon, at 7 p.m., by kind invitation of the Chief Librarian, Mr. L. Stanley Jast. From 7.0 till 8.0 visitors will be able to inspect this successful Free Access Library, a point which should call for a good muster of our members.

The business of the evening will commence at 8 p.m., *sharp*, when Mr. E. A. Savage, the Sub-Librarian, will address the meeting concerning "The Library of the Future." Mr. Jast has kindly consented to preside.

Members are respectfully invited to bring friends. Light refreshments will be provided. Trains to Croydon as follows:—

London Bridge.	Croydon.	Victoria.	Croydon.
6.30 dep. ...	6.53 (New) arr.	6.20 dep. ...	6.52 (West) arr.
6.45	7.7 (West) ..	*6.50	7.25 (East) ..
6.55	7.32 (New) ..	*7.13	7.42
*7.0	7.25 (East) ..	7.17	7.53 (West) ..
7.5	7.26 (West) ..	Charing Cross.	
*7.22	7.45 (East) ..	*6.50 dep. ...	7.28 (East) ..
		Cannon Street.	
		*6.58 dep. ...	7.28

*Main Line. East, New, and West Croydon are at equal distance from the Library.

VACANCY ON THE L.A.A. COMMITTEE.

A vacancy on the London Committee occurs owing to the resignation of Mr. E. H. Parsons (Stepney), who is compelled to retire owing to unforeseen circumstances.

The Hon. Sec. will be glad to receive nominations for the office on or before the 12th inst. The election will take place, by show of hands, at the Croydon meeting on the 13th inst.

FOURTH ANNUAL DINNER.

The Fourth Annual Dinner will be held at Anderton's Hotel, Fleet Street, E.C., on Wednesday, Nov. 27th, at 6.30 p.m., for 7.

All library assistants are invited, whether members of the Association or not, and the Committee will be pleased to see as many Librarians and other persons interested in the profession, as can be present.

Tickets (3 6 each), should be applied for before November 18th, and may be obtained from Mr. W. B. Young, 63 Leslie Rd., Leytonstone, E., who is still open to receive offers of musical assistance.

NORTH-WESTERN BRANCH.

SEPTEMBER MEETING.

The North-Western members travelled to Accrington on Saturday, September 14th, on the invitation of the Librarian, Mr. C. R. Wright.

On arriving at their destination, which was reached about 3.30 p.m., the visitors were shown over the library, where they had an opportunity of witnessing "Open-access" in operation. Modelled somewhat on the lines laid down by Mr. Brown, there are nevertheless several innovations which are due to the energy and enterprise of the librarian.

The members afterwards adjourned to the Mechanics' Institute, when Mr. Wright briefly welcomed the L.A.A., and mentioned that little need be said about the town as good descriptions of the same were to be found in "Red Ryvington," and "The Old Factory," both written by Wm. Westall, a native of the town.

Mr. Wright, having read an apology for absence from Mr. Rowland Hill, of Carlisle, called upon Mr. J. H. Swann to read that gentleman's paper, "Is open access a failure?" trusting that a thorough discussion would follow.

After the paper had been read, and followed by a good discussion, a hearty vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Hill for the paper, and Mr. Swann for reading it. The visitors then proceeded to inspect the Reading Room, prior to their departure for Whally.

Arriving at the latter place, a visit was paid to the Abbey, after which, tea was partaken of in the De Lacy Hotel.

The proceedings closed with a social hour, during which Mr. Bird kindly officiated at the piano, and the cordial thanks of the meeting having been accorded Mr. Wright, the return journey was commenced. Manchester was reached close on midnight, an unfortunate delay of fifty minutes occurring on the line.

Mr. Wm. Montgomery, Bootle, was elected to the vacancy on the N.W. Committee caused by the resignation of Mr. W. M. McKenzie, now at Aberdeen.

Mr. Hill's paper will be published in a future issue.

N.W. BRANCH OCTOBER MEETING.

The usual monthly meeting of the N.W. Branch was held on Wednesday, Oct. 16th, in the Reference Library, Manchester, Mr. J. H. Swann in the chair.

The chief matter of interest was the discussion of the affairs of the branch, in reference to attendances at the meetings. A resolution was moved by the chairman, "That considering the fact that the bulk of the new members joining the L.A.A. were from out-lying libraries, he moved that in future, meetings be held bi-monthly during the session. Such meeting to be held alternately in one of the towns in the N.W. district where the branch has members."

After many alternate schemes had been considered, it was finally moved and seconded that the chairman's motion be accepted provisionally for six months, commencing with the November meeting and exclusive of the Annual General Meeting. The motion was carried with but three dissenting.

It may be explained that the membership is still increasing, but the fact that there is no general half-holiday as in London, makes it a matter of extreme difficulty to bring so many scattered members together monthly.

Six new members joined the branch during the month.

The meeting unanimously elected Mr. Ed. McKnight, of Chorley, to be first Honorary Member of the N.W. Branch, in consideration of services rendered and his interest in L.A.A. affairs.

The proceedings terminated with a paper on "Library Administration," which was read by Mr. P. D. Gordon, but owing to shortness of time available, the discussion thereon was held over, and the meeting closed with the usual votes.

N.W. BRANCH NOVEMBER MEETING.

The next meeting will be held by kind invitation from Mr. W. E. A. Axon, at his residence, 6 Cecil St., Greenheys, Manchester, on Saturday, Nov. 9th, at 3 p.m.

Mr. Axon will show the members his library, and will speak on a congenial topic.

A large attendance is requested. Members may meet at the Royal Hotel, corner of Mosley Street, at 2.30 p.m., or proceed direct to Mr. Axon's.

NOTE.—*Members are requested to make every effort to attend this, the first of the bi-monthly meetings.*

N.W. BRANCH ANNUAL MEETING.

The Annual General Meeting will take place on Wednesday, Dec. 18th, when the election of Officers and other business will be under consideration. Nominations should be made as early as possible.

SEVENTH SESSION—INAUGURAL MEETING.

The opening meeting of the present session was held at the Guildhall on Wednesday, October 16th, by kind invitation of Mr. Charles Welch, F.S.A., the City librarian. The attendance was very good, over sixty members and friends being present. Miss Hart, the librarian of Trinidad, was amongst the visitors.

Mr. William Rome, F.S.A., F.L.S., chairman of the Guildhall Library Committee, welcomed the L.A.A. to the Guildhall on behalf of his Committee, and having expressed the pleasure it gave him to afford the Association an opportunity of inspecting the grand old building, the most interesting parts were visited.

On the way to the Great Hall, Mr. Rome drew attention to two very interesting collections; one consisting of the medals and badges of the great City Companies, and the other a collection of his own which he had lent to the Guildhall. This latter comprised Egyptian antiquities ranging from 1800 B.C. to 300 B.C., and numerous Roman coins of inestimable value.

On arrival at the Hall, Mr. Welch pointed out the wooden giants, Gog and Magog, and the canopy under which the Lord Mayor sits at State banquets.

The Chamber of the Courts of Aldermen was next visited. Here are to be seen in the windows and panels of the room, the arms of all the Aldermen who have passed the Chair, and the motto facing it "*Audi alteram partem*"—Hear all sides.

The Chamber of the Courts of Common Council was entered next. Mr. Welch briefly explained the Council's method of conducting its business.

Passing on, the crypt was reached. Mr. Welch outlined its history and the party then proceeded to the Museum which was the last place of interest to be visited. Here were found numerous antiquities of pottery and glass, coins and other interesting things.

An adjournment was then made to the Reading Room, where the meeting proper was held, Mr. Rome presiding. Mr. Welch read a very interesting paper, entitled "*The Young Librarian, his training and possibilities.*" At the request of Mr. Rees, who thought the paper could be studied with advantage and for the benefit of those members who were unable to be present, Mr. Welch gave permission for the paper to be published in the "*Library Assistant.*"

Mr. Rome was unanimously requested to convey to the Guildhall Library Committee the thanks of the L.A.A. for their kindness in allowing the meeting to be held there.

Replying to a vote of thanks, moved by Mr. Soper, and seconded by Mr. Thorne, for the paper he had read, and the trouble he had taken to make the gathering a success, Mr. Welch said that as chairman of the Summer School Committee in 1895, he had watched with pleasure the formation of the L.A.A.

Sir Edward Verney, in proposing a vote of thanks to Mr. Rome for presiding, said that in his opinion the association was a necessary institution, for it was to the Assistants of to-day that we should have to look for the Librarians of the future.

Mr. Rome thanked those present for their very kind appreciation of the little he had done. In the course of his speech he announced with evident pleasure that after being neglected for over 500 years, Chaucer, who had done so much to crystallize our language, and who had been a City man and a City official, was at last to be suitably honoured by the erection of his bust in the Guildhall.

It was unanimously resolved that the sincere sympathy of the L.A.A. be tendered to Mrs. Foskett in the great loss she had sustained by the death of Mr. E. Foskett, Chief Librarian of the Borough of Camberwell.

A very successful meeting was brought to a close by the

presentation to each member present, of a copy of *The British Library Year Book, 1900-1901*, which had been generously forwarded as a gift by Mr. Thomas Greenwood.

Light refreshments were provided by Mr. Rome at the close of the proceedings. F.P.

STUDY CIRCLE.

QUESTIONS ON OCTOBER READINGS.

Note.—One, if not both, of the questions should be attempted.

1. ENGLISH LITERARY HISTORY.

Senior.—Briefly trace the rise of periodical literature in England.

Junior.—Make a list of the works of Sir Walter Scott, placing them in order of date.

2. LIBRARY PRACTICE.

Senior.—What is the best method of procedure in the event of borrowers returning books from houses containing infectious disease? Does any law exist relative thereto.

Junior.—Supposing you were asked by a borrower for the best books upon each of the following subjects, which would you recommend? Afghanistan, coins, costume, and the microscope.

READINGS FOR NOVEMBER.

a Brooke's Primer, Chap. VIII.

Saintsbury. Short History. Book XI.

Birrell. Obiter Dicta. Series I.

Also Biographical details concerning the early Victorian philosophic school.

a Suitable for Juniors.

It will be necessary to obtain a knowledge of contemporary English History, from such sources as are available.

The result of the last month's work has been good, but it is hoped that more *provincials* will avail themselves of these courses, which are mainly organized for their benefit. The answers to Library Practice are more satisfactory in the Junior division, than in the Senior.

The best answers in Library Practice are by "Ami" (*Senior*) and "Savoy" (*Junior*). The answers of "Adsum," "Nemo," and "Pro Patria" are insufficient, the two latter students omitting mention of the reviews or guide books. "Quo" is weak in composition, and the answer sent by "Codam" is imperfect in description.

The answers to the Literature questions are on the whole very satisfactory. The best answers are from "Ami" (*Senior*), and "Savoy" (*Junior*). "Adsum" fails to mention the influence of the French Revolution, "Nemo's" paper is good, but lacks detail, "Pro Patria" errs in giving to England the first place in the political and literary revolution of Europe.

"Puer," "Quo," "Stebenhith," and "Tamesis II" are all advised to be more careful in composition. "Puer" lacks originality and repeats too aptly the text-book wordings. "Spitzbergen" in a commendable endeavour to be brief, omits many facts that should have been mentioned.

Altogether, we are satisfied with our first month's competition.

NOTE.—Students are requested to continue to use the *same* pseudonym, and answer the two questions on *separate* sheets of paper. Also to post their answers in time; one paper arrived 36 hours late, and such will disqualify in future.

The Hon. Sec. is obliged for the numerous suggestions received, all of which, where practicable, will be acted upon. The number of these communications, however, renders direct acknowledgment a matter of impossibility.

Answers to the November questions must reach the Hon. Sec. on or before December 12th.

«THE YOUNG LIBRARIAN: HIS TRAINING AND POSSIBILITIES.

By C. WELCH, F.S.A.

I wish to speak to you briefly this evening on three points which I venture to regard as primary duties incumbent upon the young librarian.

These three points are, First:—The duty of reverence for books; Secondly:—The duty of courtesy; and Thirdly:—The duty of self-improvement.

It may perhaps safely be assumed that no one would deliberately *choose* librarianship as a profession if he were not a lover of books, nor could the average mortal be long engaged in the constant companionship of books without coming to regard them as his friends and companions, and treating them in such a way as friendship demands. I have known men who have been book-lovers all their lives, and whose libraries contain among their choicest treasures books which they acquired by saving up the pocket-money of their boyhood. But as a rule the bibliophile (outside, of course, the ranks of librarianship) is a creature of older growth. The librarian has much to learn from him. The care with which he *uses* his books, *binds* them, stores them in well-made bookcases, and impresses on his friends the duty of carefully handling them, has been the means of saving many a precious volume for posterity. What do we not owe to the private owners of libraries, from the noble founders of the Chatsworth and Althorp collections to John Bagford the shoemaker, whose collection of ancient ballads is fitly preserved in the British Museum?

What is a pleasurable instinct in the bibliophile becomes with the librarian, as I take it, a primary duty. He has to hand down his books to posterity, and must see that his generation treats them with all proper respect. This is especially necessary in the case of unique or very rare books and prints. The responsibility becomes in such cases almost a solemn one. But in

* Read at the Inaugural Meeting of the Seventh Session.

dealing with books of ordinary value, it is of the first importance for the assistant himself to set a good example to the public in the care with which he handles or uses books. In times even of great pressure they should not be banged down on the counter or table, or piled up into too high heaps, as this can surely be prevented with a little trouble. A good rule for the Librarian under this head is first, *take care* of your books, be a book-keeper in the truest and best sense of the word. Secondly, let the books, consistently with this your first duty, be placed as freely at the service of your readers as is possible.

I hope I may without giving offence be permitted to insist on the importance of what I regard as the second great duty of the librarian, whether young or old—the duty of courtesy. We look for courtesy as a duty on the part of every Christian man or woman, but may it not be particularly expected from the the librarian? The object of books and, indeed, their *raison d'être*, is the preservation of all that is most precious and most valuable of the thoughts of men of all countries and times. And surely the effect of such constant companionship should be to soften and elevate, with the result impressed upon us of old in our Latin grammar, “*emollit mores nec sinit esse feros*.” But if necessary “the gentle art of courtesy” must be cultivated, for no librarian will be successful without it. A library, to which gentle spirits are naturally attracted, is of all places the most likely where we may entertain angels unawares, and we shall never know what choice gifts many a library has received through the courtesy shown by its officials to some visitor of humble mien. My own experience has been that readers as a rule are most grateful people, and acknowledge any assistance rendered to them with a fervour out of all proportion to the service which it is a duty though not less a pleasure to afford them.

But it is time to turn to my third point—the duty of self-improvement. I know that I am addressing many whose long hours of duty press heavily and make the time of home leisure one on which the first demands should be those of rest and recreation. But I know too that the fact of your membership of the Library Assistants' Association and of your being here to-night gives proof that none of you are going to be content to remain low down on the ladder, if through self-denial and hard work you can reach a higher position.

The duty of self-improvement, though incumbent upon all in whatever profession or occupation they may be engaged, is especially the duty of the young librarian who takes a proper view of the possibilities of his office. The personal advantages it brings to the young student must not be lost sight of. Mental

application benefits the whole man by giving increased intellectual vigour, with a further capacity for acquiring knowledge; whilst a better acquaintance with the principles underlying our work gives us a greatly increased interest in its performance.

The material advantages need not so strongly be emphasised: they are patent to us all. Higher qualifications will fit their possessors for promotion to higher posts when these become vacant. They will also ensure that present work, however humble it may seem to be, shall be better done, with greater satisfaction to the assistant himself and greater benefit to the public. This is an age of advancement which makes great demands on individual capacity in every walk of life, and a larger measure of attainment than formerly is not only expected of each one, but is a necessity for those who would hold their own in the struggle not only for success but even for subsistence. There is no shirking these conditions. The librarian must take his place in the general movement. For him at all events there must be no lagging behind—he must rather seek to fit himself for a post among the leaders in the van of progress.

The multiplication of libraries which we have witnessed, especially during the last few years, and the "library spirit" which is so much in evidence at the present day shows that the public mind is deeply convinced of the importance of library work as a part of our national system of education. That system itself is the uppermost subject of domestic concern which now engrosses the attention of our statesmen and of the country at large. Of one thing we may be sure, that the work of the library will in the near future be identified more closely than ever with the great work of education.

Here, then, with the increasing number of libraries and the growing public interest in library work, are strong inducements to all to qualify themselves to the utmost for their professional work. Whilst the present outlook offers a wide scope for the more ambitious among us, it should bring home to every one the importance of the personal influence of the library assistant in the effect produced upon the public in this great crisis of the Library movement.

To turn now to the practical side of my subject. I do not propose to enter into detail as to courses of study. These may best follow the needs and opportunities of the individual. The training of the Summer School and the preparation for the examinations of the Library Association provide an excellent course of professional study, and there is no lack of evening classes at Colleges and Polytechnics for instruction in subjects of general education. Some items of common information suggest

themselves as of special use to the librarian. It may be worth while to specify as instances, the order and dates of accession of the English sovereigns, the succession of the earlier Roman emperors, the periods covered by the various styles of our English architecture: the list might be greatly extended. These items of knowledge serve as little pegs on which to hang much other useful information, and serve as keys always at hand to unlock many a puzzle.

In making a choice of special studies, there are some which must be regarded as of first importance to the librarian. The study of heraldry—an elementary acquaintance with it at all events—is almost indispensable. Still more important is a knowledge of palaeography, which is most interesting in itself and needs only diligence and practice for its acquisition. Without some proficiency in this study, which may almost be called one of the librarian's tools, the young student will be shut out from much that is of great value in the matters that come before him.

Then there are less nearly allied and more special studies in the choice of which each may best follow his individual taste. To have a private subject of study of which you have gained some hold is to have a very useful possession, whether it be an ancient or a modern language, a department of science or of art, a period of history or literature, a biographical subject or the history of your own locality. Then there are the more practical studies, such as numismatics, architecture, photography, and divisions of archaeology, such as earth-works, brass-rubbing, &c.

The knowledge which you will gain by taking up as a hobby some such study as those which I have mentioned will prove most useful to you. It will also be useful to others, and your special study will often come in handy in most unexpected and various ways.

I assume that we shall all work in some corner or another, in the wide field of the great home-science of bibliography, and I cordially recommend the library assistants whom my remarks may reach to respond to the appeal recently made by the Bibliographical Society by taking up the exact study of the output from the press of one of our 17th or 18th century printers. The collection of materials for his life, the preparation of a list of the books which he printed, the careful examination and collection of these as opportunity offers, will prove an excellent training, an interesting study, and a useful piece of work in your profession, and one well within the reach of all whom I address.

I have said enough by way of suggestion—let me add a few words of encouragement. A higher standard will certainly be expected from the librarian in the future, and a wider field for

his abilities lies before him. But do not forget that aids to self-advancement exist which were unknown to librarians of a generation since. The programmes of your past sessions afford full evidence of the interest which is felt in the improvement of the position of the young librarian not only by his older colleagues, but also by the members of library committees and all who have at heart the welfare of the library movement.

As in our home politics those who would win the far-off election battle must heed the cry of Register, Register, Register, so those amongst you who would win laurels in your profession must take good heed to Qualify, Qualify, Qualify.

Your meeting here to-night in such good show at the opening of your seventh annual session is sufficient proof that your Association has well recognised the need to which I have chiefly referred in these remarks, and I sincerely hope that the many advantages afforded by the Library Assistants' Association may continue to be enjoyed by a largely increasing band of members.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Back Numbers of "The Library Assistant."—The Editor will be pleased to pay full price (6d. per copy) and postage for any of the following numbers of *The Library Assistant*, viz.—No. 4, April, 1898; No. 8, August 1898; No. 10, October, 1898; No. 11, November, 1898; No. 32, August, 1900; No. 39, March, 1901, and will be pleased to accept as donations to the Association, any other numbers for which readers have no further use.

Australia; Legislature Debates.—The Commonwealth of Australia will be glad to receive at the Victoria Office, 15 Victoria Street, W.C., applications from Librarians who will file the published debates of the Legislature, and facilitate access to them by those of the public interested in the proceedings of the Legislatures of Greater Britain.

NEW MEMBERS.

Senior:—FARADAY, J. G. (Hornsey); SHARP, E. (West Ham); SMITH, H. J. (Bury).

Junior:—ASHTON, J. C. (Wigan); CLAYTON, C. E. A. (Library of the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society, London); GILLESPIE, N. L. (Westminster); KING, J. H. (Poplar); LEA, EDITH (Wigan); MARSDEN, J. R. (Mechanic's Institution Library, Burnley); MEE, F. H. (Wigan); ROBERTS, H. M. (Walthamstow); ROWLEY, G. F. (Stoke Newington); WELHAM, H. G. (West Ham).



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EDWARD FOSKETT.

AN APPRECIATION.

"All at once they leave you, and you know them."—Browning.

It is difficult for those who knew Mr. Edward Foskett, whether their friendship extended for a long period of time, or, as in the case of the present writer, for only a short period, too realise that he has passed away from the busy professional life of a London librarian. The Borough of Camberwell has lost a good servant, and those who had the privilege of co-operating with him in his daily work have lost a friend; for he brought the

element of friendship into a distinct and intimate relationship with the daily routine of library organisation.

He also brought to his work a sincere love of literature, a constructive ability, and a wise restraint. There was a mellowed geniality of temper in his nature which sometimes suggested our conception of the character of Dickens.

Mr. Foskett was appointed by the Camberwell Vestry in 1890, and as Chief Librarian of the Public Libraries of Camberwell, and our branch libraries came within his control and jurisdiction. This entails thought and action of no mean order. Those who can judge of his work from a longer and closer acquaintance would be better fitted to write of his many-sided activity. He was a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature, and some volumes of verse have been the product of his leisure. In 1886 Messrs. Kegan Paul published a miscellaneous volume, and a second edition appeared in 1887. Much of Mr. Foskett's verse owes its inspiration to Cornish life and Cornish scenery. He had studied to advantage the poetry of Tennyson, and to Tennyson he always rendered a loyal allegiance. His tastes both in life and literature, as Mr. Scott-Scott, Chairman of the Camberwell Libraries Committee justly remarked in moving a resolution of sympathy with the widow and family of Mr. Foskett, were simple, and his ideals were high. His last published volume, "Hugh Trebarwith," a Cornish romance, tells a simple story in clear and simple language, and from it I have chosen two verses from a lyric to illustrate Mr. Foskett's ability as a writer of lyrical verse.

Time that now defies, is a time that dies
 With a breath ;
 Love is not a day, for it lives for aye
 Killing death.
 So in you and me ever may it be
 Pure and bright,
 Keeping us and one till another sun
 Brings new light.

The thought of these lines may have occurred to some of those who stood around his grave at Forest Hill to render a last homage to one whose life-work was finished but who has left behind him a tender memory, and to younger men an inspiration for work. Mr. Foskett was 52; to me he always seemed much younger. He was young in spirit, and hopeful of the future; he tried to dignify and honour the calling he had chosen, and now that that busy brain, teeming with many projects, is at rest, we can best honour his memory by emulating his methods.

"Gentleness and cheerfulness, these are the perfect virtues," exclaims Stevenson. The subject of this brief appreciation had happily a large share of these admirable qualities.

C. F. NEWCOMBE.

Inaugural Meeting.—As will be seen from the report published on another page, the inaugural meeting was an unqualified success, and more than fulfilled the expectations of the committee. Of the large number present, over sixty, not more than seven or eight were visitors, amongst whom were Miss Verney, and Miss Hart, the Librarian of Trinidad, who is spending a short time in England. Sir Edmund Verney, who is pleased to claim membership of the Association as a library assistant, was also present, and members from such out-lying districts as Brentford, Hornsey, West Ham, Woolwich, &c., were again able to greet each other after the summer vacation.

The paper by Mr. Welch, which was of a particularly practical nature, and the "running" description of the treasures of the museum and other departments given by Mr. Rome, the Chairman of the Library Committee, as we drifted from one department to another, made us wish that we had more time to spare in order to listen to such an able and courteous enthusiast. It is very gratifying to the Officers and Committee of the L.A.A., who spend a considerable portion of their leisure in the work of the Association, to find at the commencement of a new session, that their labours are so fully appreciated, and they hope that all the meetings during this winter will be as well attended and in other ways successful.

Annual Dinner.—It is hoped that every Assistant in the London District, whether a member of the Association or not, will make a special effort to attend this pleasant annual function. The Committee also extend a cordial invitation to Librarians and others interested in the work of the Association.

Finsbury.—The Finsbury Borough Council has adopted a recommendation from the Public Libraries' Committee to adopt the Public Libraries Act throughout the whole of the Borough, and to raise the limit of the rate from $\frac{1}{2}$ d. to 1d. in those parts of the Borough where the lower amount is levied. A month's notice must be given of intention to adopt Acts, and the whole question will come up again on November 7th, on a formal motion to adopt the Acts as above. At the present time the Acts are not operative in the district of St. Luke's and other portions of East Finsbury.

Stoke Newington.—At the last meeting of the Council it was decided, on the recommendation of the Public Libraries Committee, not to grant the petition signed by a number of borrowers asking the Council to adopt "open access."

NOTES AND NEWS.

Leeds. *The Yorkshire Weekly Post* of Oct. 19th, contains an article on the new catalogue and work of the Leeds Public Library, with a portrait of Mr. T. W. Hand, the Librarian.

Woolwich.—The first of the Woolwich Libraries will be opened by Lord Avebury on November 8th. Mr. Henry Phipps, late of Pittsburg, U.S.A., has just given a donation of £100, on condition that the news-room be open for certain hours on Sundays. The offer was made anonymously in the first place through the editor of *The Echo*. We hope to publish a description of the building in our next issue.

Bury.—Lord Derby opened the Art Gallery and Public Library on October 9th. The function was a civic one, the corporation having built the gallery, at a cost of about £30,000, to house the gift of pictures by the Wrigley family in commemoration of Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee. The collection is estimated to be of the value of £100,000. *The Bury Times* of October 12th, published a special four-page supplement with illustrations of the buildings and photographs of the principal officials, including the Chief Librarian, Mr. Archibald Sparke, and gives a good account of the rise and progress of the movement which led to the acquisition of this splendid institution. *The Builder* of October 12th, also published an illustration of the building with descriptive letterpress.

Stepney.—The Council has agreed to the report of the Libraries Committee *re* the staffs for the Mile End and Limehouse Libraries, which provides for a first, second, and third assistant, and a porter, at each of the Libraries. The salaries of the assistants are to be as follows, viz:—1st assistant, 30s. per week; 2nd assistant, 20s. per week; 3rd assistant 7s. per week.

APPOINTMENTS AND CHANGES.

*ANDERSON, Mr. A. A. R., St. Bride Institute, to be Junior Assistant, Mile End, Stepney.

CLAY, Mr., Assistant, Upper Norwood, to be Senior Assistant, Limehouse, Stepney.

*HATCHER, Mr. Sydney A., Sub-Librarian, Canning Town Public Library, West Ham, to be Librarian-in-charge.

*HOSIE, Mr. J. A Senior Assistant, Leyton, to be Librarian of Kendal.

LESLIE, Mr., Assistant, Twickenham, to be Senior Assistant, Mile End, Stepney.

*McDOUGALL, Mr. Donald, Senior Assistant, Central Library, West Ham, to be Principal Assistant, Canning Town.

***MOSLIN, Mr. A. M.**, Assistant, St. Saviour's, to be Junior Assistant, Limehouse, Stepney.

***PARSONS, Mr. E. H.**, Second Assistant, St. George, Stepney, to be First Assistant, St. George.

***POULTER, Mr. H. W.**, Assistant, Penge, to be Second Assistant, St. George, Stepney.

SINGLETON, Mr. J. W., Librarian of Kendal, to be Librarian of Accrington.

***WHITWELL, Mr. Charles**, Sub-Librarian, Central Library, West Ham, to be Sub-Librarian of the West Ham Public Libraries.

The following were the candidates selected for the Stepney appointments, viz :—Messrs. ***Hatton** (Leyton), **Clay** (Upper Norwood), ***Camplin** (Shoreditch), ***Harper** (Stoke Newington), **Norman** (Wandsworth), **Leslie** (Twickenham), **Gillespie** (Westminster), for the Senior post. Messrs. ***Moslin** (St. Saviour's), ***Anderson** (St. Bride Institute), ***Pocock** (Brentford), ***Poulter** (Penge), **Simmons** (Wimbledon), for the Junior post.

***Members of the Library Assistants' Association.**

OBITUARY.

We regret to announce the death of Mr. Hanson, the Librarian of the City of London College. Mr. Hanson, who was over seventy years of age, has been connected with the College for over forty years, and was one of the officials in the old premises in Leadenhall Street, and a colleague of the founder, **Prebendary MacKenzie**.

APPOINTMENTS VACANT.

Notice to Library Authorities.—*We shall be pleased to publish under this heading, free of charge, particulars of vacancies if full details are sent to the Editor on or before the 25th of each month.*

Donations to Library. "**Memoirs of Libraries**," by **Edward Edwards**, 2nd Edit., vol. 1, 1901., presented by Mr. **Thomas Greenwood**, Frith Knowl, Elstree, Herts. "**Public and Private Libraries of Glasgow**," by **Thomas Mason**, 1885, presented by Mr. **T. Mason**, St. Martin's Library, London.

NOTICES.

Annual subscriptions to the L.A.A., excepting North-Western Branch, are now due, and should be sent to Mr. **W. Geo. Chambers**, *Hon. Treasurer*, Public Library, Woolwich.

Communications relating to the Journal and its publishing should be addressed to the *Hon. Editor*, Mr. **H. Tapley Soper**, Public Library, Stoke Newington, N.

All matter for the December number should be sent in on or before the 20th November.

All other communications should be addressed to the *Hon. Secretary*, Mr. **G. E. Roebuck**, 236 Cable Street, E.

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